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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
CAPITAL MARKETS, SECURITIES, AND INVESTMENT
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE
TERRORISM AND ILLICIT FINANCE

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March 16, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Quigley:

We write to respectfully request that you include funding for Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry (LPOE) reconfiguration and expansion project at the President's FY2019 Budget request level in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill. This funding will ensure the completion of the project while also promoting trade, commerce and security along the US-Mexico border.

The inclusion of the Calexico port of entry is part of a proposed \$10.7 billion budget request made by the General Services Administration whose request centered on investments for the country's infrastructure and modernizing information technology to make government operations more efficient. Mexico is California's top trading partner and improving the Calexico West LPOE is an essential part of enhancing California's economy. Cross-border trade between California and Mexico, both imports and exports, was valued at more than \$190 billion in 2011. According to a 2007 study by the Imperial Valley Association of Governments, California businesses lost an estimated \$436 million and 5,639 jobs directly attributable to long border crossing wait times. In FY 2015, your commitment was instrumental in initiating Phase 1 of a project that will completely modernize an aging LPOE.

The Calexico West LPOE project, which has already began construction, includes new pedestrian processing and privately owned vehicles (POV) inspection facilities that will consist of 16 northbound lanes and five southbound lanes, new administration office space, a new headhouse, 32 secondary inspection stations serving northbound and southbound traffic, and a

total of 340 parking spaces. The project will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of ten northbound POV inspection lanes, a headhouse, and sitework necessary to accommodate those facilities on the sloping site. Phase 2 will consist of the balance of the project including additional site work, a pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, five southbound POV inspection lanes, and six additional northbound POV inspection lanes.

As you begin your work on the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, we urge you to include the President's requested funding for the completion of Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project. Completing this project will improve domestic supply chains, strengthen our national security, and facilitate economic growth, not only for the greater region, but also for the entire nation. Thank you for your consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,


JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress


SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress


SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress